

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Applicants note that the Examiner has not yet acknowledge claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S. C 119 in response to Applicants' filing of the appropriate priority documents on March 22, 2004. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

II. Status of Claims

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the application. This Amendment addresses each rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-14 and 16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable by Kondou et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner cites Kondou et al. as prior art under 35 U.S.C 102(e) and alleges Kondou discloses a second multiplexer at Page 3, Paragraph [0047]. Applicants respectfully note that Applicants' priority date is earlier than the filing date of Kondou. Since the August 27, 2003 priority date of the present application is earlier than the September 15, 2003 U.S. filing date of Kondou et al., Kondou et al. is not prior art, and the § 102(e) rejection is improper.

Regarding claims 2-8, 10-14, 16-20, and 22-24, Applicants note that each depends from claims 1, 9, and 21, respectively, for which Kondou is not available as prior art as discussed above. Accordingly, claims 2-8, 10-14, 16-20, and 22-24 are allowable over the remaining cited prior art and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

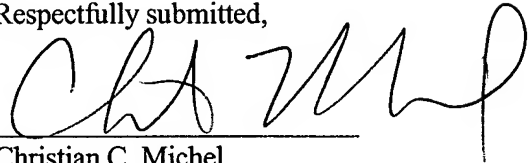
IV. Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondue et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0062395) in view of Abrams (U.S. Patent No. 7,212,574). As discussed in detail above, Kondue et al. is not available as prior art. Therefore, claim 15 is allowable over the remaining cited prior art and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Michel', written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: May 14, 2008